Iraq: Five Years On

Members of the Boston College community have traveled far and wide since the Iraq War began in March of 2003; some journeys have been those of the mind and soul

March 2003 to March 2008. Five years. In that span, an entire class began and ended its undergraduate studies at Boston College; another class will do so less than two months from now. Nearly 150 administrators, faculty and staff members officially retired from BC during that period.

The five years also demarcates the length of time since the United States invaded Iraq, a milestone that formally passed earlier this month — March 19, 2003, was the date the invasion actually began — and prompted a variety of reactions in the US: protests on the part of those opposed to the war; affirmation for continuing the battle from those supporting it; grief and remembrance for the slain from their family and friends; and, most of all, reflection on the war’s past, and speculation on how, and when, it might end.

As the fifth anniversary of the war neared, Boston College Chronicle sought out several individuals — most of whom have appeared in these pages in relation to the Iraq War — for their thoughts on the conflict, and how it has touched them.

The war in Iraq has affected few in the Boston College community as personally as Laura Sanchez Cross, a 2004 graduate who is currently a captain in the United States Army.

Not only has Cross served in the ongoing Middle East conflict — she was a battalion intelligence officer and company executive officer with the Army’s 4th Infantry Division in Baghdad from November, 2005 through December, 2006 — she is married to another Army officer and fellow BC ROTC grad, Captain Ben Cross, ‘03, who was badly wounded in the fighting.

When interviewed by Chronicle at the outbreak of the war in 2003, Cross — then a junior majoring in communications and international studies — noted that her involvement in the Army ROTC program was “sometimes like a sport team, when it seems like all you do is practice and never get a chance to play. You want to show what you have trained for.” Now, speaking from her current assignment with the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Tex., she says she wouldn’t make any changes in what she is doing for her country.

“What I have learned in my short, four-year Army career is instrumental,” she says. “At the age of 25, I was second in command and led more than 80 soldiers in combat. I have been responsible for over $80 million of equipment. I have been in life and death situations. I have traveled the world. And above all, I have met and served with the most amazing people.”

Her husband served as an infantry company commander with the 4th and was wounded by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Iraq. He was discharged from active duty last June and is currently an Army Reserve officer and ROTC instructor at Tarleton State University in Texas.

“These soldiers truly are heroes,” she says. “They risk their lives so everyone can have the freedoms that we all take for granted on a daily basis.

“I will be the first person

Continued on page 3

Former South African Leader de Klerk to Speak

BY ED HAYWARD STAFF WRITER

Former South African President and Nobel Peace Prize recipient F.W. de Klerk, who helped his nation make an historic shift from apartheid to reconciliation, will deliver the next Clough Colloquium Series lecture on Monday, April 7.

De Klerk will present “Bringing the Gap: Globalization without Isolation” at 4 p.m. in Robsham Theater, according to Associate Dean for Undergraduates Richard Keeley (CSOM), the director of programs for the Winston Center for Leadership and Ethics, which hosts the colloquium series.

“As a former head of state and the co-architect of the historic dismantling of apartheid, President de Klerk’s presence offers our students a rare opportunity to encounter a leader who has engaged some of the most wrenching issues of our time,” Keeley said.

De Klerk held the presidency at a tumultuous and critical point in South Africa’s history, as the nation faced increased international pressure over its policy of racial separation, or apartheid.

During this period, he initiated and presided over the negotiations that led to the dismantling of “apartheid” and the adoption of South Africa’s first fully democratic constitution in December 1993.

The veteran politician and Continued on page 3

BC Physicists Achieve Nanotech Breakthrough

Improved efficiency could pave way for ‘cleaner’ products

BY ED HAYWARD STAFF WRITER

Prof. Zhifeng Ren (Physics) and his lab, in collaboration with researchers at MIT, have used nanotechnology to achieve a major increase in thermoelectric efficiency, a milestone that paves the way for a new generation of products — from semiconductors and air conditioners to car exhaust systems and solar power technology — that run cleaner.

“The team’s low-cost approach, details of which appear in the journal Science, involves building tiny alloy nanostructures that can serve as micro-coolers and power generators. The researchers said that in addition to being inexpensive, their method will likely result in practical, near-term enhancements to make products consume less energy or capture energy that would otherwise be wasted.

These findings represent a critical advance in the quest to harness the thermoelectric effect, which has both enticed and frustrated scientists since its discovery in the early 19th century. The effect refers to certain materials that can convert heat into electricity and vice versa. But there has been a hitch in trying to exploit the effect: Most materials that conduct electricity also conduct heat, so their temperature equilizes quickly. To improve efficiency, scientists have sought materials that will conduct electricity but not similarly conduct heat.

“By using nanotechnology, we have found a way to improve an old material by breaking it up and then rebuilding it in a composite of nanostructures in bulk form,” said Ren, a leader of the two-year project. “This method is low cost and can be scaled for mass production. This represents an exciting opportunity to improve the performance of thermoelectric materials in a cost-effective manner.”

In addition to Ren, the BC team consists of graduate students Yi Ma, Bo Yu, Xiao Yan, laboratory manager Dezhi Wang, post Continued on page 3

The BosTon College Chronicle

MARCH 27, 2008 • VOL. 16 NO. 14

INSIDE:

Senior curates MFA show on calligraphy (page 4)

Enthusiasm for ‘Strong Women, Strong Girls’ program (page 5)

Heights of Excellence profile: Gregory Kalchower, SJ (page 7)

BC Physicists Achieve Nanotech Breakthrough

Improved efficiency could pave way for ‘cleaner’ products

BY ED HAYWARD STAFF WRITER

Prof. Zhifeng Ren (Physics) and his lab, in collaboration with researchers at MIT, have used nanotechnology to achieve a major increase in thermoelectric efficiency, a milestone that paves the way for a new generation of products — from semiconductors and air conditioners to car exhaust systems and solar power technology — that run cleaner.

“The team’s low-cost approach, details of which appear in the journal Science, involves building tiny alloy nanostructures that can serve as micro-coolers and power generators. The researchers said that in addition to being inexpensive, their method will likely result in practical, near-term enhancements to make products consume less energy or capture energy that would otherwise be wasted.

These findings represent a critical advance in the quest to harness the thermoelectric effect, which has both enticed and frustrated scientists since its discovery in the early 19th century. The effect refers to certain materials that can convert heat into electricity and vice versa. But there has been a hitch in trying to exploit the effect: Most materials that conduct electricity also conduct heat, so their temperature equilizes quickly. To improve efficiency, scientists have sought materials that will conduct electricity but not similarly conduct heat.

“By using nanotechnology, we have found a way to improve an old material by breaking it up and then rebuilding it in a composite of nanostructures in bulk form,” said Ren, a leader of the two-year project. “This method is low cost and can be scaled for mass production. This represents an exciting opportunity to improve the performance of thermoelectric materials in a cost-effective manner.”

In addition to Ren, the BC team consists of graduate students Yi Ma, Bo Yu, Xiao Yan, laboratory manager Dezhi Wang, post Continued on page 3

Former South African Leader de Klerk to Speak

BY ED HAYWARD STAFF WRITER

Former South African President and Nobel Peace Prize recipient F.W. de Klerk, who helped his nation make an historic shift from apartheid to reconciliation, will deliver the next Clough Colloquium Series lecture on Monday, April 7.

De Klerk will present “Bringing the Gap: Globalization without Isolation” at 4 p.m. in Robsham Theater, according to Associate Dean for Undergraduates Richard Keeley (CSOM), the director of programs for the Winston Center for Leadership and Ethics, which hosts the colloquium series.

“As a former head of state and the co-architect of the historic dismantling of apartheid, President de Klerk’s presence offers our students a rare opportunity to encounter a leader who has engaged some of the most wrenching issues of our time,” Keeley said.

De Klerk held the presidency at a tumultuous and critical point in South Africa’s history, as the nation faced increased international pressure over its policy of racial separation, or apartheid. During this period, he initiated and presided over the negotiations that led to the dismantling of “apartheid” and the adoption of South Africa’s first fully democratic constitution in December 1993.

The veteran politician and Continued on page 3

Iraq: Five Years On

Members of the Boston College community have traveled far and wide since the Iraq War began in March of 2003; some journeys have been those of the mind and soul

March 2003 to March 2008. Five years. In that span, an entire class began and ended its undergraduate studies at Boston College; another class will do so less than two months from now. Nearly 150 administrators, faculty and staff members officially retired from BC during that period.

The five years also demarcates the length of time since the United States invaded Iraq, a milestone that formally passed earlier this month — March 19, 2003, was the date the invasion actually began — and prompted a variety of reactions in the US: protests on the part of those opposed to the war; affirmation for continuing the battle from those supporting it; grief and remembrance for the slain from their family and friends; and, most of all, reflection on the war’s past, and speculation on how, and when, it might end.

As the fifth anniversary of the war neared, Boston College Chronicle sought out several individuals — most of whom have appeared in these pages in relation to the Iraq War — for their thoughts on the conflict, and how it has touched them.

The war in Iraq has affected few in the Boston College community as personally as Laura Sanchez Cross, a 2004 graduate who is currently a captain in the United States Army.

Not only has Cross served in the ongoing Middle East conflict — she was a battalion intelligence officer and company executive officer with the Army’s 4th Infantry Division in Baghdad from November, 2005 through December, 2006 — she is married to another Army officer and fellow BC ROTC grad, Captain Ben Cross, ‘03, who was badly wounded in the fighting.

When interviewed by Chronicle at the outbreak of the war in 2003, Cross — then a junior majoring in communications and international studies — noted that her involvement in the Army ROTC program was “sometimes like a sport team, when it seems like all you do is practice and never get a chance to play. You want to show what you have trained for.” Now, speaking from her current assignment with the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Tex., she says she wouldn’t make any changes in what she is doing for her country.

“What I have learned in my short, four-year Army career is instrumental,” she says. “At the age of 25, I was second in command and led more than 80 soldiers in combat. I have been responsible for over $80 million of equipment. I have been in life and death situations. I have traveled the world. And above all, I have met and served with the most amazing people.”

Her husband served as an infantry company commander with the 4th and was wounded by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Iraq. He was discharged from active duty last June and is currently an Army Reserve officer and ROTC instructor at Tarleton State University in Texas.

“These soldiers truly are heroes,” she says. “They risk their lives so everyone can have the freedoms that we all take for granted on a daily basis.

“I will be the first personContinued on page 6
**Opening the portal**

Boston College unveiled a new interface this month for its Agora Web site, where users in the University community can review or change employment-related or personal information, make requests to BC Libraries or Facilities Management, access Eagle One Card services and perform other tasks.

Known as Agora Portal, the interface — currently in its beta phases and coding theory is noted for his interest in math games: the Game of Math, an example of making the most of people’s personal goals,” says Taylor. “Setting a physical destination is a way to increase the sense of accomplishment. Setting the goal beyond that takes on the new dimension of a mental goal.”

Making a splash

Adj. Senior Lect. Bonnie Rudner (English) and Amelia Shumeyko, ’08, have found a double-dose of motivation at the Flynn Recreation Complex.

Last semester, the two women, who swim with Caitriona Taylor, manager of the RecPlex Aquatics and Instructional Programs, added a component to the facility’s Swim Incentive Program enabling faculty, staff and students to swim laps for their favorite charity.

Through the Swim Incentive Program, Taylor explains, participants are encouraged to “Swim the Virgin Islands” or “Swim the Charles” — or rather, its equivalent of about 80 miles — to make swimming part of their workout.

When a close friend of Rudner was diagnosed with breast cancer last year, her husband, Michael, proposed a swim-a-thon fundraiser.

Rudner shared the idea with a class and one of her students, Shumeyko, jumped at the opportunity. Between 15 and 20 students are currently “swimming for a cure,” raising money for the Susan G. Komen Fund.

Taylor praises Shumeyko for bringing a service component to workouts. A scoreboard is updated at least twice a week, so swimmers stay motivated in their laps.

“Amelia really ran with this idea of making the most of people’s personal goals,” says Taylor. “Setting a physical destination is a way to increase the sense of accomplishment. Setting the goal beyond that takes on the new dimension of a mental goal.”

Adds Rudner, “People can collect for whatever charity they want; the important thing is that they stay motivated in their laps. It’s about the willingness to work.”

Ready for his close-up

When Matt Ryan, ’07, went through the interview process for his first job after college, he did it in front of a gaggle of television cameras and the observant eyes of scouts, coaches and front office types from 22 National Football League teams.

Ryan, the record-breaking quarterback for the Boston College football team last fall, went through his paces in front of the media and football contingents as part of BC’s annual “Pro Day” in Alumni Stadium on March 18, a yearly exercise in which hopeful NFL prospects from BC and other area teams can strut their football stuff.

Projected as one of the top players chosen in this year’s NFL draft, Ryan drew the lion’s share of attention from both the media and football representatives. He was asked to throw passes of various distances and direction, replicating the types of throws that a professional quarterback is routinely asked to make in a game.

He was almost flawless, connecting on 48 of 52 attempts; three of those incompletions were drops by receivers.

Ryan, who earned his undergraduate degree from the Carroll School of Management last May but remained eligible to play a final year, threw 31 touchdown passes in leading BC to an 11-3 record and a victory in the Champs Sports Bowl.

Like any first-time job seeker, Ryan is looking optimistically to the future. “I’m trying to do everything that I can to be drafted as high as I can,” he said after last week’s workout. “Hopefully I will get to go into a great situation and have the chance to go in and compete to be a starting quarterback in the NFL.”

“Our don’t know who is going to take who or when or where or why,” he noted. “But there’s no sense in worrying about it now. You just have to work hard and prepare yourself.”

—RO

Eagles Take Hockey East Title, Begin NCAAs Saturday

The Boston College men’s ice hockey team will make its sixth consecutive appearance in the NCAA Championship Tournament this weekend when they face the University of Minnesota in a Northeast regional quarterfinal game at the DCU Center in Worcester. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Coach Jerry York’s skaters won the bid to compete for the NCAA title by beating Vermont, 4-0, in the Hockey East championship game last Saturday night. This is the 10th time in the last 11 years that BC has qualified for the national championship tournament and the school’s 28th overall visit to NCAA play.

The winner of the BC-Minnesota game will face the winner Friday’s other quarterfinal game, Air Force-Miami of Ohio, on Sunday, with the winner entering the NCAA “Frozen Four” championship rounds in Denver on April 10-12.

BC brings a 21-11-8 record into the playoffs. —Reid Oslin

Making a splash

Adj. Senior Lect. Bonnie Rudner (English) and Amelia Shumeyko, ’08, have found a double-dose of motivation at the Flynn Recreation Complex.

Last semester, the two women, who swim with Caitriona Taylor, manager of the RecPlex Aquatics and Instructional Programs, added a component to the facility’s Swim Incentive Program enabling faculty, staff and students to swim laps for their favorite charity.

Through the Swim Incentive Program, Taylor explains, participants are encouraged to “Swim the Virgin Islands” or “Swim the Charles” — or rather, its equivalent of about 80 miles — to make swimming part of their workout.

When a close friend of Rudner was diagnosed with breast cancer last year, her husband, Michael, proposed a swim-a-thon fundraiser.

Rudner shared the idea with a class and one of her students, Shumeyko, jumped at the opportunity. Between 15 and 20 students are currently “swimming for a cure,” raising money for the Susan G. Komen Fund.

Taylor praises Shumeyko for bringing a service component to workouts. A scoreboard is updated at least twice a week, so swimmers stay motivated in their laps.

“Amelia really ran with this idea of making the most of people’s personal goals,” says Taylor. “Setting a physical destination is a way to increase the sense of accomplishment. Setting the goal beyond that takes on the new dimension of a mental goal.”

Adds Rudner, “People can collect for whatever charity they want; the important thing is that they stay motivated in their laps. It’s about the willingness to work.”

Ready for his close-up

When Matt Ryan, ’07, went through the interview process for his first job after college, he did it in front of a gaggle of television cameras and the observant eyes of scouts, coaches and front office types from 22 National Football League teams.

Ryan, the record-breaking quarterback for the Boston College football team last fall, went through his paces in front of the media and football contingents as part of BC’s annual “Pro Day” in Alumni Stadium on March 18, a yearly exercise in which hopeful NFL prospects from BC and other area teams can strut their football stuff.

Projected as one of the top players chosen in this year’s NFL draft, Ryan drew the lion’s share of attention from both the media and football representatives. He was asked to throw passes of various distances and direction, replicating the types of throws that a professional quarterback is routinely asked to make in a game.

He was almost flawless, connecting on 48 of 52 attempts; three of those incompletions were drops by receivers.

Ryan, who earned his undergraduate degree from the Carroll School of Management last May but remained eligible to play a final year, threw 31 touchdown passes in leading BC to an 11-3 record and a victory in the Champs Sports Bowl.

Like any first-time job seeker, Ryan is looking optimistically to the future. “I’m trying to do everything that I can to be drafted as high as I can,” he said after last week’s workout. “Hopefully I will get to go into a great situation and have the chance to go in and compete to be a starting quarterback in the NFL.”

“Our don’t know who is going to take who or when or where or why,” he noted. “But there’s no sense in worrying about it now. You just have to work hard and prepare yourself.”

—RO

Eagles Take Hockey East Title, Begin NCAAs Saturday

The Boston College men’s ice hockey team will make its sixth consecutive appearance in the NCAA Championship Tournament this weekend when they face the University of Minnesota in a Northeast regional quarterfinal game at the DCU Center in Worcester. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Coach Jerry York’s skaters won the bid to compete for the NCAA title by beating Vermont, 4-0, in the Hockey East championship game last Saturday night. This is the 10th time in the last 11 years that BC has qualified for the national championship tournament and the school’s 28th overall visit to NCAA play.

The winner of the BC-Minnesota game will face the winner Friday’s other quarterfinal game, Air Force-Miami of Ohio, on Sunday, with the winner entering the NCAA “Frozen Four” championship rounds in Denver on April 10-12.

BC brings a 21-11-8 record into the playoffs. —Reid Oslin

Making a splash

Adj. Senior Lect. Bonnie Rudner (English) and Amelia Shumeyko, ’08, have found a double-dose of motivation at the Flynn Recreation Complex.

Last semester, the two women, who swim with Caitriona Taylor, manager of the RecPlex Aquatics and Instructional Programs, added a component to the facility’s Swim Incentive Program enabling faculty, staff and students to swim laps for their favorite charity.

Through the Swim Incentive Program, Taylor explains, participants are encouraged to “Swim the Virgin Islands” or “Swim the Charles” — or rather, its equivalent of about 80 miles — to make swimming part of their workout.

When a close friend of Rudner was diagnosed with breast cancer last year, her husband, Michael, proposed a swim-a-thon fundraiser.

Rudner shared the idea with a class and one of her students, Shumeyko, jumped at the opportunity. Between 15 and 20 students are currently “swimming for a cure,” raising money for the Susan G. Komen Fund.

Taylor praises Shumeyko for bringing a service component to workouts. A scoreboard is updated at least twice a week, so swimmers stay motivated in their laps.

“Amelia really ran with this idea of making the most of people’s personal goals,” says Taylor. “Setting a physical destination is a way to increase the sense of accomplishment. Setting the goal beyond that takes on the new dimension of a mental goal.”

Adds Rudner, “People can collect for whatever charity they want; the important thing is that they stay motivated in their laps. It’s about the willingness to work.”

Ready for his close-up

When Matt Ryan, ’07, went through the interview process for his first job after college, he did it in front of a gaggle of television cameras and the observant eyes of scouts, coaches and front office types from 22 National Football League teams.

Ryan, the record-breaking quarterback for the Boston College football team last fall, went through his paces in front of the media and football contingents as part of BC’s annual “Pro Day” in Alumni Stadium on March 18, a yearly exercise in which hopeful NFL prospects from BC and other area teams can strut their football stuff.

Projected as one of the top players chosen in this year’s NFL draft, Ryan drew the lion’s share of attention from both the media and football representatives. He was asked to throw passes of various distances and direction, replicating the types of throws that a professional quarterback is routinely asked to make in a game.

He was almost flawless, connecting on 48 of 52 attempts; three of those incompletions were drops by receivers.

Ryan, who earned his undergraduate degree from the Carroll School of Management last May but remained eligible to play a final year, threw 31 touchdown passes in leading BC to an 11-3 record and a victory in the Champs Sports Bowl.

Like any first-time job seeker, Ryan is looking optimistically to the future. “I’m trying to do everything that I can to be drafted as high as I can,” he said after last week’s workout. “Hopefully I will get to go into a great situation and have the chance to go in and compete to be a starting quarterback in the NFL.”

“Our don’t know who is going to take who or when or where or why,” he noted. “But there’s no sense in worrying about it now. You just have to work hard and prepare yourself.”

—RO
Continued from page 1
docent researcher Yucheng Lan, now a research
director of Boston College Nanotechnology, said.

More than 100 Boston College students will be kicking up their heels to raise money and awareness for Franciscan Hospital for Children at the sixth annual Bos- ton College Dance Marathon, set for this Saturday, March 29, from noon until midnight in the Flynn Recreation Complex.

BC Dance Marathon is a student-organized event that has raised a total of more than $500,000 to date for the Brighton-based Fran- ciscan Hospital, one of the nation’s largest pediatric rehabilitation hospitals offering programs and services for children with special health care needs.

The centerpiece of the event is the danceathon. BC students take pledges and volunteer to stay on their feet for 12 hours. Cheering on and motivating the dancers will be 30 other BC students signed on as “moralee- ers.”

BC Dance Marathon is open to members of the BC community. Admission is $5. Families and staff associated with Franciscan attend the event as guests.

BC athletics and the Eagle mas- cot will be on hand to welcome at- tendees and Boston College dance troupes will perform. There also are a number of raffle prizes up for grabs at the event, including Boston Celtics tickets and various restaurant and store gift cards.

The grand prize is a weekend stay in Boston that comes with two American Airlines vouchers, hotel accommodations, dinner, a spa package and admission to the New England Aquarium and a Duck Tour.

Some 50 members of the BC community have volunteered to serve food and run games and entertain the supporters who attend the event.

The recipient of this charitable endeavor, Franciscan Hospital, al- ready has a strong relationship with BC. Each month, about 30 Boston College student athletes visit chil- dren at Franciscan, bringing cheer and sharing stories. Other BC stu- dents who participate in the Uni- versity’s 4Boston outreach program volunteer at FHC’s Therapeutic Recreation Department, serving as “patient friends” to physically chal- lenged children and adolescents and are involved in reading, arts, and crafts, and games.

“[Dance Marathon’s] executive staff has helped the athletes on their monthly visits to Franciscan and it has been great to see the kids,” said Danielle Kidd, ‘08, co-executive director of Boston College Dance Marathon. “They remind us that we have been working so tirelessly to raise money and awareness for FHC. The children truly are amaz- ing and inspirations to us all.”

Kidd has been a volunteer with Dance Marathon all four of her undergraduate years and is very proud of how Dance Marathon has grown — particularly in terms of sponsorships.

“We have new partners this year such as Honest Tea, Cottini, Bobsos and Starbucks; to go hand in hand with our established spon- sors including, but not limited to, BC Dining Services, Stone of Wey- mouth, American Airlines, and the Boston Red Sox,” said Kidd.

While the marathon event is the group’s biggest fundraiser, it is not the only way they financially support Franciscan. In February, Dance Marathon partnered with J. Crew for a shopping event that raised nearly $3,000 for Franciscan. All Boston-area J. Crew stores donated 10 percent of one weekend’s sales to the BC-supported charity.

For more information about the Boston College Dance Marathon or about making a donation, see the group’s Website, www.bc.edu/dance- marathon, or call 617-552-0754.

Clough Colloquium to Host de Klerk April 13

Continued from page 1

the F. W. de Klerk Foundation, which is dedicated to the promu- nation of peace in multi-cultural societies. De Klerk established the Foundation in March 2004. Its objective is to play a constructive role in the promotion of peace, democracy, human rights, and good governance.

The Clough Colloquium Series recognizes individuals who have made important contributions as ethical leaders in their fields and calls upon them to share what they have learned on their jour- ney to becoming leaders through symposia, conferences and public events. Prior colloquium speakers in- clude New York Times Publishing Company President and CEO emeritus Howard Biography De- nis, ’96 and Gloria Clough CG- SON, ’96.

March 13 Emergency Test Reflects National Average

The first test of the Univer- sity’s Emergency Notification System reached approximately 50 percent of its target audience, mirroring results experienced by colleges and universities nationwide, BC’s Emergency Manage- ment officials reported.

The March 13 test, using the notification system text/7Qeast, sent text messages to more than 14,000 BC students, faculty and staff who had previously provided their cell phone numbers prior to March 1.

In an analysis of the test conducted by BC Information Technology Services in conjunc- tion with 3n, slightly more than half of those registered on cam- pus received the test message.

“These numbers are con- sistent with the first test re- sults in colleges and universities throughout the country,” said Vice President for Information Technology Mike Moore. “We will continue to analyze the data and work with the ven- dor to try to improve the results moving forward. Clearly, the vendors need to redouble their efforts to fulfill the promises they made when they marketed these products and continue to work to improve the Virginia Tech tragedy.”

As has been consistently re- ported by colleges and univer- sities that have utilized emer- gency notification systems, the emergency text messages often go undelivered because the recipients are in an area where the cell signal is weak or because they have a prepaid cell plan. Other cases, the messages are go undelivered because telecommu- nications companies view large volumes of text messages com- ing from internet companies as spam and will either drop the messages or, in some cases, de- liver them hours later.

Students and faculty and universities are hoping that their continued pressure on the cell phone companies will force them to solve this problem,” said Moore.

Moore said BC Information Technology is in the process of evaluating competitor vendors, while continuing to test the 3n emergency notification system.

“We are working hard to find the best emergency notifi- cation system to complement the internet companies and our emergency hotline (1-888-BOS- COL1) that the University will utilize in the event of an emer- gency,” he said.

“The bottom line is that all of our messaging vehicles will require BC community mem- bers to take responsibility for immediately informing others around them,” she said. “There is no perfect system for respond- ing to an emergency. We will all need to pass the information on.”

—Jack Dawn
Senior’s zeal for Islamic art parallels efforts to build interfaith ties

BY KATHLEEN SULLIVAN
STAFF WRITER

The beautiful Arabic script displayed in the new Museum of Fine Arts, Boston exhibition on calligraphy in the world of Islam is impressive — especially when one considers that it was curated by a professional curator but by a Boston College student.

M. Emily Neumeier, a BC senior and Presidential Scholar majoring in art history, worked under the direction of Woodman Taylor, Museum of Fine Arts assistant curator for South Asian and Islamic Art, to assemble “Kufic Korans: Calligraphy in the World of Islam.”

On display in the MFA’s Islamic Corridor through Nov. 2, the exhibition features objects “representing a broad range of time and space — from medieval Spain to modern-day Turkey — [demonstrating] the perpetuating force of the word in Islamic art,” according to the MFA Web site.

“Calligraphy is a vital and unique part of Islamic art,” explains Neumeier, a Florida native who also has a minor in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. “In the Islamic world, words are used for information but in the Islamic world, words are decorative. They have ornamental, as well as semantic, value.”

Neumeier believes that the only realistic way to study art history is holistically. It’s the same approach she takes to looking at other aspects of life, like religion and faith, which in turn has spurred her to become involved in interfaith activities, such as starting the first college chapter of a national group seeking to promote understanding between Christians, Jews and Muslims.

Her zeal for working in ancient arts has earned her plaudits from academics and professionals, including Taylor, who described her as “incredible” in a recent press interview. “She’s such a serious scholar at such a young age.”

Neumeier’s accomplishments — she was the only undergraduate presenter at a recent University of South Florida symposium on medieval manuscripts and early printed books — are “impressive,” said her thesis advisor Norma Jean Calderwood University Professor of Islamic and Asian Art Sheila Blair. “Most assistant professors haven’t curated an exhibition at a major museum.”

“Emily is a terrific student. She is unpretentious and down-to-earth. She is always ready to help a professor. She is unpretentious and down-to-earth. She is always ready to help a professor,” said Blair. “I call her Emily. I don’t call her ‘Professor.’ She is easy to talk to. She is very pleasant.”

Neumeier felt more effort was needed to confront stereotypes and misperceptions between persons of different faiths. She went on to establish the first college chapter of the Daughters of Abraham, an interfaith book club for Muslim, Jewish, and Christian women devoted to reading and discussing literature related to these religious traditions.

“We are a small group of Muslim, Jewish, Christian and women — faculty, student, or staff at BC,” said Neumeier. “We emphasize developing relationships, being respectful, and [sharing] personal experiences or impressions of [our] own faith tradition.”

Neumeier, who has a Fulbright application pending for a post-graduation research project in Turkey, last year was one of only 20 recipients nationwide of a prestigious Beinecke Scholarship, which provides funds for the graduate education of young men and women with exceptional promise. She plans to obtain a doctorate in art history.

“Emily will make an excellent teacher or museum curator someday,” said Blair. The need for greater knowledge and understanding about Islam, particularly to counter the stereotypes, is very real, said Blair.

“I think we need a lot more understanding in American universities. But Islam is the world’s fastest growing religion and it is important that more people understand it and teach others about it.”

That’s exactly what Emily Neumeier is already doing.

Information about the “Kufic Korans” exhibition, including a virtual tour showcasing several pieces, is available at www.mfa.org/exhibitions/kufickorans. A “Writers Among Us” event to Feature Political Scientist’s New Book

The Writers Among Us series will present a talk on March 31 by Prof. Robert Faulkner (Political Science), who will discuss his new book The Case for Greatness: Honorable Ambition and Its Critics.

The event will take place at 7 p.m. in Devlin 008 and is free and open to the public.

In The Case for Greatness, Faulkner contends that ambition has become viewed as a negative trait for leaders, and qualities such as determination to excel, good judgment, justice and a sense of honor are slain in many modern accounts of greatness. In fact, he says, those qualities are what have distinguished Franklin D. Roosevelt and an Abraham Lincoln from lesser leaders.

Faulkner, offering an attempt at recovering what he calls “a reasonable understanding of virtue of self-government. He also addresses modern indictments of even the best forms of political greatness: in the critical thinking of Hobbes, the idealism of Kant, the relativism and brutalism of Nietzsche, or the egalitarianism of Rousseau and the neo-Marxists.

A faculty member at Boston College since 1968, Faulkner is the author of Francis Bacon and the Project of Progress and The jurisprudence of John Marshall, among other works. A former Marshall Scholar, he has held fellowships from the Ford, Mellon, Earhart, and Bradley foundations and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

“Writers Among Us,” which spotlights the work of BC faculty authors, is sponsored by Boston College Magazine, the Office of the Provost and the BC Bookstore. For more information, call ext.4.7576.
Passing Along Their Strength
BC mentoring program strikes a chord with area schoolchildren
BY REID OSLIN
STAFF WRITER
An after-school mentoring program that pairs Boston College students with potentially at-risk city children has expanded to three elementary schools in the Brighton-Allston neighborhood and is earning high marks from BC volunteers as well as school officials.
The “Strong Women, Strong Girls” project, which in the past year has grown to include 10 BC undergraduates mentoring 25 elementary school-age girls in the district’s Garfield, Hamilton and Winship schools, serves up weekly sessions of friendship, life skills training and educational enrichment for the local children. “The girls love it and we love it,” says Meghan Welsh, Brighton’s Hamilton Elementary School site coordinator for the BC project, a partnership between Boston College, Boston Public Schools and various community agencies. “It’s been very successful.”
“The feedback that we are getting on this program has been fabulous,” says Maria DiChiappari, director of the Boston College Neighborhood Center in Brighton and coordinator of BC’s chapter of the after-school mentoring project. “‘Strong Women, Strong Girls’ has been part of our community-building effort. We get the schools to help recruit the girls – all third-, fourth- and fifth-graders, who would really benefit from being mentored by college students.”
The “SWSG” project began at BC with a pilot program involving four volunteers in two Brighton schools in 2006-07. A third school and more than two dozen members of BC volunteers were added this fall to meet the burgeoning interest in the program. “Generally, the children involved are at-risk young girls or girls who could just use an extra boost by learning social skills,” DiChiappari says. “This is the first full year that we have been doing it and the impact has been really positive.”
Each weekly mentoring session involves a Boston College female student spending 90 minutes with small groups of girls during which the youngsters choose and discuss a particular topic of interest, read biographies of successful women and then pursue various follow-up activities. “The girls are getting the one-to-one support that they need,” notes Welsh, who says that 10 girls at the Hamilton School are involved in “SWSG.” “They have become close to their mentors and have actually developed some pretty good relationships – something like the Big Sis program, but with a lot of other components, too. It’s really been successful at this school.”
“It’s a great mentoring program,” adds Lynch School of Education junior Mari Knuth-Bouracee, a volunteer. “The elementary school teachers are very happy with the program. They may not be telling us, ‘We love to see you!’ or ‘You’re great,’ they are really building a connection and a relationship with us.
“We are working to change the next generation of girls from Boston,” Knuth-Bouracee says. “You’re great,” they are really building a connection and a relationship with us. They are also learning very practical hands-on skills – things like stress management that hopefully they will carry on through their own development.”
One recent topic involved bullying, which Knuth-Bouracee says is a major problem and significant source of concern for elementary schoolchildren. “The girls are getting the one-to-one support that they need,” notes Welsh, who says that 10 girls at the Hamilton School are involved in “SWSG.” “They have become close to their mentors and have actually developed some pretty good relationships – something like the Big Sis program, but with a lot of other components, too. It’s really been successful at this school.”
“It’s a great mentoring program,” adds Lynch School of Education junior Mari Knuth-Bouracee, a volunteer. “The elementary school teachers are very happy with the program. They may not be telling us, ‘We love to see you!’ or ‘You’re great,’ they are really building a connection and a relationship with us. They are also learning very practical hands-on skills – things like stress management that hopefully they will carry on through their own development.”
One recent topic involved bullying, which Knuth-Bouracee says is a major problem and significant source of concern for elementary schoolchildren. "The girls are getting the one-to-one support that they need," notes Welsh, who says that 10 girls at the Hamilton School are involved in "SWSG." "They have become close to their mentors and have actually developed some pretty good relationships – something like the Big Sis program, but with a lot of other components, too. It’s really been successful at this school.
“It’s a great mentoring program,” adds Lynch School of Education junior Mari Knuth-Bouracee, a volunteer. “The elementary school teachers are very happy with the program. They may not be telling us, ‘We love to see you!’ or ‘You’re great,’ they are really building a connection and a relationship with us. They are also learning very practical hands-on skills – things like stress management that hopefully they will carry on through their own development.”
One recent topic involved bullying, which Knuth-Bouracee says is a major problem and significant source of concern for elementary schoolchildren. "The girls are getting the one-to-one support that they need," notes Welsh, who says that 10 girls at the Hamilton School are involved in "SWSG." "They have become close to their mentors and have actually developed some pretty good relationships – something like the Big Sis program, but with a lot of other components, too. It’s really been successful at this school.
“It’s a great mentoring program,” adds Lynch School of Education junior Mari Knuth-Bouracee, a volunteer. “The elementary school teachers are very happy with the program. They may not be telling us, ‘We love to see you!’ or ‘You’re great,’ they are really building a connection and a relationship with us. They are also learning very practical hands-on skills – things like stress management that hopefully they will carry on through their own development.”
One recent topic involved bullying, which Knuth-Bouracee says is a major problem and significant source of concern for elementary schoolchildren. "The girls are getting the one-to-one support that they need," notes Welsh, who says that 10 girls at the Hamilton School are involved in "SWSG." "They have become close to their mentors and have actually developed some pretty good relationships – something like the Big Sis program, but with a lot of other components, too. It’s really been successful at this school.
“It’s a great mentoring program,” adds Lynch School of Education junior Mari Knuth-Bouracee, a volunteer. “The elementary school teachers are very happy with the program. They may not be telling us, ‘We love to see you!’ or ‘You’re great,’ they are really building a connection and a relationship with us. They are also learning very practical hands-on skills – things like stress management that hopefully they will carry on through their own development.”

Continued from page 1

say that I would love for all my friends to come home to feel safe and to bring all of the soldiers home once and for all. But we all know that it is more complicated than that.

“No one should discredit what a soldier gives up for his country, no matter what one’s opinion is on the war,” Cross adds. “They need to know — we all need to know — that the American people are standing behind them.”

But Kostiuk, now a third-year student in the Graduate School of Social Work, recalls an event in which she herself was the one making the sacrifice, illuminating the path in which she had already begun to travel, one that would give her the sense of mission and a means to overcome feelings of helplessness.

“The way I found control was through peace,” says Kostiuk. “I found I could influence others and share with others my passion for peace. In January of 2003 I went to Washington, DC, to march in a peace rally. This was a huge moment for me to be surrounded by people who were on the same page as me on the war.

“Afetr this rally and subsequent rallies in Boston I found myself drawn to gatherings of people who really wanted peace. When the war started, in March, I had become a voter with a purpose.”

One year after the service on the Quad, Kostiuk had taken a leave of absence to work with a political action committee called Music for Peace, attending music concerts and registering young voters to canvass and register young voters.

“At the end of our campaign we had registered one million new voters. This was very meaningful for me because I was able to participate in open dialogues about the state of our nation and where we can make a difference.”

Kostiuk also became involved with BC’s Global Justice Project, and helped start a daily silent vigil in the Quad, now a weekly event which remains for Kostiuk a “meaningful and powerful tradition.”

“I sat in the Quad many times by myself, not even noticed by others, but doing this simple act of peacefulness fulfilled me,” she says. “I feel that this act of presence in all areas of our lives this ‘time out’ really helped.”

As a senator, she found her voice as a writer and as an advocate for older adults and their families, which led her to enroll in the Alzheimer’s Association and plans to seek a public policy-level job in the geriatric social work field.

“It’s going to be a big transition to leave here,” she says, “but I feel that I have a strong foundation, thanks to the Jesuit ideals at BC that I need to succeed in a world that has war and hardship. As long as I keep my head up I continue to love and care for the people around me and I still have hope for a more peaceful world.”

—Sean Smith

On the eve of the five-year anniversary of the War in Iraq, Adj. Asst. Prof. Paul McNellis, SJ (Philosophy), rose before a standing room only crowd in Cushing Hall and reflected on what the United States owes the Iraqi people.

Facilities Management Electrician John Robishaw and his son Erik in 2003, following Erik’s return from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. (File photo by Lee Pellegrini)

“...the turmoil of a generation, raised Her emotions got the best of her from The Beatitudes, her voice fal...”

Graduate School of Social Work student Rita Kostiuk at the Quad, where she has regularly kept vigil during the course of the Iraq War. (Photo by Lee Pellegrini)

Paul McNellis, SJ. “I don’t know what is too long or too short to stay, but we must.”

The answer? A far different end-...”

Facilities Management Electrician John Robishaw knows full well what it is like to be bursting with pride in a son’s service to his country, but at the same time constantly fearful about the young man’s chosen path in harm’s way.

Five years ago, Robishaw’s son Erik was serving in Iraq with the US Army’s 101st Airborne Division, his third deployment to a combat area after serving previous tours in Bosnia and Afghanistan. “I made a lot of valuable friends in Iraq and Afghanistan in the fall of 2003. “Erik came back in one piece,” Robishaw says, describing how his son had taken part in firefights and hostile actions in the early phases of the Iraq war. “He also came home with several decor...”

Continued from page 9

Paul McNellis, SJ. “I don’t know what is too long or too short to stay, but we must.”

The answer? A far different end-...”

Facilities Management Electrician John Robishaw knows full well what it is like to be bursting with pride in a son’s service to his country, but at the same time constantly fearful about the young man’s chosen path in harm’s way.

Facilities Management Electrician John Robishaw and his son Erik in 2003, following Erik’s return from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. (File photo by Lee Pellegrini)

“...the turmoil of a generation, raised Her emotions got the best of her from The Beatitudes, her voice fal...”

Graduate School of Social Work student Rita Kostiuk at the Quad, where she has regularly kept vigil during the course of the Iraq War. (Photo by Lee Pellegrini)

Paul McNellis, SJ. “I don’t know what is too long or too short to stay, but we must.”

The answer? A far different end-...”

Facilities Management Electrician John Robishaw knows full well what it is like to be bursting with pride in a son’s service to his country, but at the same time constantly fearful about the young man’s chosen path in harm’s way.

Five years ago, Robishaw’s son Erik was serving in Iraq with the US Army’s 101st Airborne Divi...
Finding God in the Law

Fr. Kalscheur thinks law students can, and should, ponder the bigger questions

“Heights of Excellence” profiles faculty members who, through their exemplary teaching and research, contribute to the intellectual and spiritual life of Boston College.

“Lawyers I suppose were children once.”
-Charles Lamb

Q: What’s the difference between God and a lawyer?
A: God doesn’t think He’s a lawyer.

By Sean Smith

If Assoc. Prof. Gregory Kalscheur, SJ (Law), doesn’t expect lawyers to retain the innocence of childhood, neither does he believe it axiomatic that attorneys attain a deity-like arrogance in their abilities.

What he does believe is that it’s possible to find God in the ordinary study and practice of law.

“Why not?” he says. “We feel enriched when we allow ourselves to bring to our lives qualities like reflection, discernment, compassion and integrity — that which we often associate with the practice of faith. There’s no reason we can’t work to nurture those same qualities in the practice of law, and in so doing benefit those who serve, and are served by, the law.

In only his fifth year at the Boston College Law School, Fr. Kalscheur has impressed colleagues, as well as students, with his dedication to promoting a study of law that aspires for something more than a profession. Even as he teaches the basics of legal practice, Fr. Kalscheur gently but firmly exhorts prospective lawyers to consider other fundamental questions beyond the immediacy of civil procedure or corporate litigation.

These questions — about the nature of justice, for instance, or the relationship between society and individual, of faith and career — are worth expounding for their own sake, according to Fr. Kalscheur. Furthermore, he says, it’s an exploration that professors, as well as students, should consider.

When he talks about the larger themes of law, Fr. Kalscheur is not speaking from the abstract but from experience, as someone who left a promising career as a lawyer at a major Washing
ton, DC, firm to join the Jesuits. Fr. Kalscheur’s message has been bolstered with students, as evidenced by his selection for the 2006 Emil Slobowski Faculty Excellence Award from the BC Law Student Association — and with many of his colleagues, too.

Count Patrick Hurley, JD’07, as one very satisfied former student of Fr. Kalscheur. “To me, Fr. Kalscheur’s story is an impressive impression of vocation,” says Hurley, now an associate with Goodwin Procter in Boston. “At a key stage in his life, Fr. Kalscheur decided that one path full of ‘success’ as generally defined by society was not what he wanted, and he took a path much outside the norm, but one that he felt called to, and to my knowledge, has found incredibly rewarding.

“Not that legions of his students will necessarily be rushing out to become Jesuit priests, but I think his example is a strong message to students that it is okay to step outside themselves and take stock of what they do, and Greg really encourages that.

Something clicked
Fr. Kalscheur grew up in Port Edwards, Wisc., a paper mill town of some 2,000 people located about 100 miles north of Madison. His father was the president of a local savings and loan association, his mother a high school teacher before she left to stay at home with Fr. Kalscheur and his three younger brothers.

He may not have wanted to be a lawyer from childhood, exactly, but Fr. Kalscheur’s youthful interests certainly led him in that direction: his
tory, politics, then government service. When he went on a trip to Washington, DC, while in high school, he found himself intrigued by the city, and by Georgetown University. When it came time to choose a college, he considered staying close to home — Marquette in Milwaukee and St. Norber’s (near Green Bay) — but in the end he chose George
town.

For law school, Fr. Kalscheur went back to the Midwest, to the University of Michigan. It was there that he encountered an old acquaintance from Georgetown, and the two began having “significant conversations about how I understood my faith as a Catholic and why it was important to my life.

During one such conversation, “out of the blue, as I remember it,” Fr. Kalscheur’s friend asked if he had ever thought about becoming a Jesuit. It had never occurred to Fr. Kalscheur before, but as

“Greg is a constant, gentle reminder of how we can play a more helpful role for students who want guidance on their journey,” says a colleague of Fr. Kalscheur, showing his Civil Procedure class.

he thought about it “something seemed to click in my heart.”

Nonetheless, Fr. Kalscheur headed off down a more precarious legal path: clerking for Judge Ken
neth F. Ripple in the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, then off to work as a litigator at Hogan & Hartson in Washington, DC. There were plenty of possibilities, he says, “I was a young lawyer, and this could take place.”

He tells the field of law and the contemporary law school were the sorts of human endeavors where this could take place.”

Fr. Kalscheur taught political science and served as assistant to the director of the Center for Values and Service at Loyola College in Maryland, then became associate pastor at St. Raphael the Archan
gel Church in Raleigh, NC. In 2003, he had the opportunity to come to BC Law, and couldn’t have been happier about it.

“BC seemed like a place interested in taking seriously what it means to be a Jesuit law school,” he says, “and open to the range of things I really wanted to do, especially in the area of student for
mation.”

The freedom to search
Fr. Kalscheur doesn’t hit students over the head with the account of his calling, but he shares it where and when possible, especially at Sidebar or in out-of-classroom conversations. “I’m not expecting every person to go down the same path I did,” he says. “I want them to see how the Ignatian understanding of discernment helped me grow in my own voca
tion, then consider the nature of their vocations and what opportunities these provide for encour
ments with God.”

Which is exactly the right note to strike, says Fr. Kalscheur’s fellow Law School Jesuit, Assoc. Prof. Continued on page 8
Most undergraduates could hardly imagine their senior thesis winding up on display in bookstores, but that is exactly what happened to Boston College 2007 graduate Katherine Adams, who, along with Prof. Charles Derber (Sociology) is author of the newly published book The New Feminized Majority: How Democrats Can Change America with Women's Values.

Early in her senior year at BC, Adams, a native of New Rochelle, New York, sought out Derber, a social critic and author of 12 books, for assistance in crafting her honors thesis, which dealt with the role of gender and politics. Derber encouraged Adams to consider expanding the thesis into a book, and the two worked over the summer on the draft.

The book discusses the rise of a “feminized majority,” made up of both women and men, that embraces values such as empathy, cooperation, and a preference for non-violent solutions rather than adversarially associated with women. Adams and Derber tout the emergence of this phenomenon as a potentially transformational force in American politics, and one that could play a major role in the 2008 election.

The two co-authors marked the release of The New Feminized Majority March 12 with a talk in the Eagles Nest, introduced by Vice President for Undergraduate Affairs Donald Hafen.

Adams — now outreach coordinator for the Philadelphia GROW Project, and former member of the Democratic Party — has become very interested in gender and politics.

Did you always feel confident about your writing, such that you could put together a major thesis? How did your experience at BC shape your writing?

To say that BC improved my writing would be an understatement. BC made me a writer. Writing is the foundation of the entire BC academic experience. I felt my writing tighten with every class I took, from Freshman Writing to philosophy to history. As a freshman, I was distressed when I got papers back from professors that were absolutely covered in red ink. Over four years, I became more confident in my writing, and the process got easier. Still, even as a senior, the thought of writing a thesis seemed daunting! But I heard such good things about Charlie and the way he works with students, and they all turned out to be true. (Photo by Lee Pellegrini)

The rising feminized majority will be the defining element in the Democratic primary race and the general election. In the states where Barack Obama has emerged victorious, he has done so by undercutting Hillary Clinton’s supposed primary advantage. It’s important because women make up 68 percent of Democratic primary voters.

Democratic voters — female and male — are looking for feminized change in America, and the candidates need to show that they can deliver.

The differences between Clinton and Obama and will seem minute, though they enter the general election. John McCain is a hyper-masculine candidate: he is fighting for a larger military and a continued presence in Iraq, and he entrenches the idea of strikes against Iran. At his public appearances, he is often flanked by military officials who are meant to symbolize the masculinized protectionism McCain implicitly promises voters.

To defeat McCain, the Democratic candidate needs to present an alternative vision for the future, based on the feminized values of cooperation, empathy, and community. The worst thing Obama or Clinton can do is try to beat McCain at his own game by huffing and puffing about how tough Democrats can be. Democrats need to offer a different definition of the word “strength,” strength rooted in feminized values.

Katherine Adams, ’07, with Prof. Charles Derber (Sociology), her co-author for The New Feminized Majority. “I heard such good things about Charlie and the way he works with students, and they all turned out to be true.”

Law School Jesuit Advocates Exploring Wider Questions

Continued from page 7

Frank Herrmann, SJ. “The calling was not unexpected. God makes moves when and where God will. It was just a surprise for some of the individual who planned one course of life and now finds the spirit pushing them in a different direction.”

“How does God does make people aware that they have the freedom to search for that spirit, and it’s a freedom they should embrace.”

As a professor of law, though, Fr. Kalscheur notes that some students have a firm grounding in the discipline, its spiritual dimensions notwithstanding. He regards Civil Procedure as “the most important class in law school — it’s absolutely integral to understanding the litigation process: how to structure a lawsuit, getting ready for court and so on. This is where students learn the language of law, and get a sense of the different options and avenues lawyers take.”

Having been in front of the small amphitheater lecture hall, Fr. Kalscheur is generally business-like, although by no means distant, as he covers the finest points of, for example, how jurisdiction is determined in a case involving a foreign corporation. He’ll call upon a student — he addresses them as “Mr.,” “Miss,” or “Ms.” — to summarize the facts of a case or explain a judicial ruling, then elaborate on or amplify the response, extend- ing one hand and gesturing while he speaks, as if law had its own unique form of sign language. It’s considerably different in his Catholic Social Thought seminar for second and third-year students, all of whom Fr. Kalscheur addresses by first names.

On one recent late-winter afternoon, 19 students gather around an oval table in a small Stout Hall room, ready to discuss a 1991 Pope John Paul II encyclical that encompasses economics, society and law.

“The Pope was reflecting on the changes that had swept across Europe over the previous two years,” he says. “So the question here is, how do we understand the failure of communism? Is he saying that capitalism is the triumphant social system? Should it be the new World and former communist countries?”

One student thinks the Pope was “suggesting that they hadn’t seen before.”

“I disagree with Father on that,” muses Fr. Kalscheur. “How do you empower the person in a community? And what is the role of law in that? This is not a one-size-fits-all approach. What you have to ask is — and this is what John Paul II is getting at — is, is it the common good respected? Is the dignity of the individual upheld?”

“It’s pretty heady stuff for stu- dents who, in a few years time, may be in Wall Street boardrooms or some big urban law firm. But judging by the favorable response he’s seen since he began teaching the seminar, Fr. Kalscheur can only conclude that they have both the ability and the desire to tackle such matters.

“What I’ve found is that stu- dents, even if they are not Catho- lic, are tremendously impressed by the depth and vision in the Catho- lic faith tradition and its signifi- cance for law,” he says. “It doesn’t mean they all have to go out and be ‘Catholic lawyers,’ whatever that is. They are simply able to see law in a whole other context, and perhaps can make connections they hadn’t seen before.”

Third-year BC Law student Sean Gibbons, who says he con- siders himself a devout Catholic, has found the seminar valuable in many respects, not least because of Fr. Kalscheur’s presence.

“I disagree with Father on any number of things, but I also respect his experience and his thoughtfulness,” says Gibbons, from the Bronx, NY. “One of the things I love about BC Law is that it’s not a factory, it doesn’t turn out a bunch of stats, and Fr. Kalscheur is a big part of that."

“Having been in this seminar is not going to help me when I’m about to stand up and do a summation. But it will help me in the way I conduct myself, the way I treat my clients, the way I approach an advocate, and how we deal with me. I know there’s something bigger than what we happen to be dealing with on a particular day.”

“To me, that’s as important to the practice of law as any Civil Procedure class.”
“Follow the money” is a critical tenet of journalism, but Cullen Nutt, a professor of journalism at Boston College, says his views on the CPA and the current situation in Iraq have been significantly influenced by his professional path as he probed a recent sea-change in US military strategy.

He decided to follow the brass.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who had reached Gen. David Petraeus, commander of US forces in Iraq and a political officer with contentious orders from the White House, was now in the opening weeks of the Iraq war — the optimism many Americans felt in Iraq.

Saddam and issues of identity and sequence of this is not something that we thought through properly constitution and public integrity reform — and some bad things, overly harsh ‘de-Baathification’ and a reliance on sectarian formula to do our government posts,” says Khalil, who is writing a book on Iraqi politics. “I also think that Ambassador Bremer was handed an impossible task and did what he could with it at the time. He himself has acknowledged some of his mistakes.

“One of the things that often does not make press reporting in the States is that many Iraqis kind of look back on the CPA days with a bit of nostalgia. Iraqis have very mixed feelings: While they enjoy having their sovereignty restored and did not like being dictated to by the CPA, they also acknowledged Bremer’s intentions and de-curve.”

Khalil believes the US has ham- ppered its own progress in Iraq with an overall lack of patience, and in using ill-conceived timetables and points of reference. The benchmark put forth by the Iraq Study Group, she adds, “make the same mistake” as the Bush Administra- tion in trying to measure progress in short time frames and in some way “artificial criteria.”

“The truth is that Iraq is going through an imposed revolution. Iraq has been completely transformed by our decision to oust Saddam and issues of identity and politics are going to take a very long time to figure out. The con- sequences of this is not something that we thought through properly environment. He’s savvy and he knows students are really inter- ested in this sort of thing,” said Nunn. “I think he’s also interested in reaching different audiences and that’s what I want him to do.”

Nutt expects to expand the research into his senior thesis. This summer he will undertake a fellowship at the State Depart- ment. Nunn credited his advis- or, Vice Provost Donald Hafner, with encouraging him to pursue the study grant and the weighty topic.

Nutt prefers not to discuss where he stands on the war in Iraq, instead focusing on the lessons the military conflict has taught about 21st century warfare and coun- terinsurgency and the questions those lessons will ultimately pose to soldiers, policy makers, politicians and the American public.

“More than anything else it made me respect the armed forces and their work,” said Nunn. “They are very well educated and very committed. They are not as one-dimensional as the TV and film paint them. It is not just about battle.”
Getting Off to a Successful Start, Money-wise

A free program sponsored by the Office of Student Services aims to give Boston College students an introduction to personal financial management that are led by BC employees and expert guest speakers.

This year, the program has really caught on, according to Se- nior Financial Services Advisor Maria Hill. Typically between five and 25 students attend each afternoon class, where pizza and soda are served as speakers give lessons and advice.

Credit and Collections Manager John Brown said programs like Successful Start are cropping up on college campuses across the country. Schools like the University of North Texas, Smith College and Vanderbilt Univers- ity already offer workshops on personal financial management and have departments dedicated to helping students become more financially savvy.

“We know that students are not getting this in high school and many are not getting this in college,” said Brown. “At BC, the need is here, the interest is there. For the first time many students are learning how to balance a checkbook or want to know more about their loans.”

And even for those who have years of experience or a mortgage payment, he notes, the classes offer insight on how to improve.

One recent Successful Start program was brought in by Bradley Fin- ger, external training specialist for American Student Assistance, an organization that under- writes many federal student loans — to discuss the pitfalls of not maintaining and managing credit wisely.

Standing before a small group of students in Devlin Hall, Fin- ger rattled off some sobering facts and figures: 79 percent of Ameri- cans have an error on their credit report; canceling credit cards will not improve your credit score, and in fact, may decrease it; hav- ing poor or average credit could end up costing a person hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest payments over the course of a lifetime.

“It’s like this: let’s play a game of life or death. I’m not going to share the rules with you before we start. Who wants to play?” asked Finger, who worked in the credit card industry before ac- cepting a job with ASA.

“There is a reason why you do not understand this, there is a reason why you do not know the importance of credit, and even more and even more people get in trouble.”

“We want to give students the tools to make sound financial de- cisions,” said Hill. “This program is the beginning.”

For more information on Suc- cessful Start, or to access a list of dates that workshops are avail- able, visit www.bc.edu/offices/vi- sual/fiscal/successstart/
MEANING AND AUTHENTICITY: BERNARD LONERGAN & CHARLES TAYLOR ON THE DRAMA OF AUTHENTIC HUMAN EXISTENCE
By Prof. Brian Braman (Philosophy)

It’s an ancient question: “What is the life of excellence?” But, according to Prof. Brian Braman (Philosophy), the question nowadays is being asked in a different way, in terms of self-fulliment, self-realisation, and self-actualization — all pointing to a desire to be “authentic,” he says.

While this notion of authenticity has its share of critics, Braman argues in his new book Meaning and Authenticity Braman says that it is possible to speak about human authenticity as something that addresses contemporary concerns as well as the ancient preoccupation with the nature of the good life. Braman draws on the works of Bernard Lonergan, SJ, and Charles Taylor, both of whom placed “a high value on the search for human authenticity.” Meaning and Authenticity sets up a dialogue between the two philosophers and their belief in a concept of authentic human life that overcomes moral relativism, narcissism, privatism, and the collapse of the public self.

“This project is partly the result of teaching the Perspectives I class, which focuses on that ancient question,” says Braman. “I noticed that my students were grappling with the same question, but using such modern terms as ‘being authentically me,’ ‘wanting to realize myself’ and so on.

“Of course, the work is also a personal interpretation of what it means to be genuinely human.”

—Scott Smith
Looking Ahead

March 27
• Fitzgerald Chair Lecture: “Caring, Vulnerability and Community,” with Fitzgerald Professor of Philosophy Marina McCoy, 4 p.m., Murray Room, Yawkey Center.
• Panel discussions: “Palm, Fish, and Fountain: The Jewish and Christian Contexts of the Hammam Lf Synagogue,” 7:30 p.m., Devlin 301. E-mail: armstrong@bc.edu.
• Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy: “Dialectic and the Purpose of Rhetoric in Plato’s Phaedrus,” with Harvey Yuzis, Rice University, 7:30 p.m., Walsh Hall Function Room. See finewww.bc.edu/pl/MarchEvents.html.

March 28
• Lecture: “Acknowledging the Past, Imagining the Future: Palestinians and Israelis on 1948 and the Right of Return,” with Muhammad Jarrar, director of Badd, noon, Fulton 145. E-mail: sai@bc.edu.
• Lecture: “New Advances in Stem Cell Research,” with Ole Isacson, Harvard Medical School, noon, Bisi Center for Religion and American Public Life (24 Quincy Road). See www.bc.edu/centers/bosi/publicevents/currentsemester/isacson.html. Reservations required, call ext. 2-1800, e-mail richard@bc.edu.

University Events
March 29
• Benefit: Annual Boston College Police Auction, 9 a.m. (preview 8 a.m.), Walsh Hall Function Room. E-mail: barbara.devlin.10@bc.edu.
• Benefit: Boston College Dance Marathon, noon, Flynn Recreation Complex, through March 30. See www.bc.edu/dancemarathon.

Music • Art • Performance
March 27
• Gala Roots Series: Performance by Fullbright Visiting Scholar Jim O’Brien Moran, Ulline pipes, 7 p.m., Connolly House. See www.bc.edu/classes/rb/mul/onow. 
• Performance: “Imulse,” Boston College Dance Ensemble, 7 p.m., Robsham Theater, through March 29. Tickets $10; proceeds benefit Boston College Campus School. See www.bc.edu/clubs/danceensemble.

March 28
• Annual Baldwin Awards for Boston College student filmmakers, 7:30 p.m., Heights Room, Roosevelt Commons. See omc.bc.edu/Baldwin.

March 31
• Music in the Afternoon Series: Cynthia Brava, voice; James Chu, piano; Frances Rau, viola; Rich and Shaughnessy, clarinet; Nancy Hair, cello, play works of Brahms, 4:15 p.m., Fenwick 300. See www.bc.edu/schools/caa/music/calendar.html.
• Film and discussion: “Punching at the Sun,” with director Tanuja Chandra, 7 p.m., Higgins 300. See www.punchingthesun.com.

April 1
• Canisius Lecture: The Challenge to Love, The Call to Hope: Global Perspectives on Catholic Social Mission, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Perspectives on Catholic Social Mission, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, “I was really ambitious with this first concert,” says Gostin, who became Music ensemble — makes its concert debut at 3 p.m. in St. Mary’s Chapel. The 30-member group was established thanks to the efforts of junior Dan Gostin, an accomplished musician and veteran of the University Wind Ensemble and Chorales. “I was really ambitious with this first concert,” says Gostin, who became music major Gostin, include classical-era music up to Mozart.

• Exhibit: Fighting Irishmen: Celebrating Celtic Fans and History, through June 6.

Ongoing Exhibitions
• Tree of Paradise: Jewish Mosaics from the Roman Empire, ” with Fitzgibbons Professor of History Gary Civic. “I was really ambitious with this first concert,” says Gostin, who became music major Gostin, include classical-era music up to Mozart.


Feline Dancing

This student was a main attraction at the University’s 25th annual Middlemarch Ball, which took place in O’Connell House on March 15. Nearly 300 students attended the event, which this year had a “Welcome to Las Vegas” theme. (Photo by Christopher Huang)”

Music, Old and New

The first two weekends of April will see performances by Boston College’s newest student music ensemble, and by one of its most established and popular.

On April 5, award-winning vocal and jazz-ensemble BC Bop! will be the first annual spring concert at 8 p.m. in Robsham Theater. This year’s event, titled “facebOP!”, will feature an eclectic arrangement of Gershwin’s "I Got Rhythm" and big band favorites like "Basically Blues" made popular by the Big Band and the ticketed "Blues and the Busker's Tooth," which BC Bands Director Sebastian Bonaiuto explains is a takeoff on jazz saxophonist Oliver Nelson's composition "Blues and the Abstract Truth." As the concert and selection titles suggest, BC Bop! members are a creative lot, Bonaiuto says. The group’s student executive board comes up with a “theme” and accompanying promotional campaign for each of the Robsham spring concerts. Last year’s was “Major League Bop!” while the 2006 concert was “BC Bop!”

Bonaiuto credits Information Technology Assistant Director for Graphic Services Michael Swanson and Assistant Director for Photography Production Service Stephen Vedder for their work on promotional items and items.

For "Major League Bop!" Mike and Steve made baseball ‘cards’ of the members in concert attire posing with their instruments and ‘stats’ on the back of the cards. We sold them at the concert - they were very popular," he says. "Among the most successful images was associated with the 06 concert: BbOP! on ataken on iPod. ‘We used the ‘silhouette’ concept as in the iPod ads, but had photographically bOp! members playing their instruments and rendered them in profile.’

For ticket information, call the Robsham Theater Box office at ext.2-4002. The Rock ’n Roll Will be www.bc.edu/bcinfo.

On Sunday, April 13, The Boston Collegium — BC’s first student Early Music ensemble — makes its concert debut at 3 p.m. in St. Mary’s Chapel. The theme of the concert is Latin through the ages, and the program will begin with a 13th-century Gregorian chant, and encompass Renaissance- and Baroque-era music, with selections from Bach and Mozart.

The 30-member group was established thanks to the efforts of junior Danzel Gostin, an accomplished musician and veteran of the University Wind Ensemble and Chorales. “I was really ambitious with this first concert,” says Gostin, who became music major Gostin, include classical-era music up to Mozart.

The group’s name — in addition to being a play on “Boston College” — carries a special meaning, he notes. “In Bach’s day, a collegium was a group of peers who got together not to play music and the size of the group depended on the specific pieces they played, which is the type of flexibility I wanted for the group. The use of ‘Boston’ is also meant to include members of other universities and the surrounding community.”

———Rosemary Polfino and Sean Smith

Next at Burns: Fighting Irishmen

The widely popular exhibition “Fighting Irishmen: Celebrating Celtic Prizefighters 1820 to Present” will make its Massachusetts debut at Burns Library next week, from fresh runs at New York City’s Irish Arts Center in 2006 and South Street Seaport Museum in 2007.

Presented in collaboration with the Irish Arts Center and exhibit curator James J. Houlihan, the exhibition, which is free and open to the public, will be on view at Burns from April 1 through Sept. 5.

“Fighting Irishmen” is comprised of an eclectic collection of boxing artifacts, including paintings, photographs, paintings, robes, gloves, boxing bags, films and other items that offer “a veritable stroll down memory lane for fight fans and historians alike,” exhibit organizers say.


Besides artifacts and pictures on display — including Sullivan’s fur coat, a blazer specially made for Jack Dempsey and the mummified right arm of 17th century Irish legend Dan Donnelly — visitors will be able to view video of historic fighting films provided by the Boxing Hall of Champions during their tour of the exhibit.

For information call ext.3-3282 or see www.bc.edu/Burns.
———Office of Public Affairs